

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Volume: 24-03  
Released: September 15, 2003  
Week Ending: September 14, 2003

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** Cooler temperatures and increased precipitation was very noticeable across all of Oregon this past week. This provided much-needed relief to the recent fires. Most weather stations reported precipitation above normal and temperatures below normal. Tillamook reported nearly two inches of rain for the week. Some snow was reported in Baker County. Crop year moisture (9/1/02 to 8/31/03) in Sherman County was reported at roughly 80 percent of normal. The Booth and Bear Butte fires are now at 86 percent contained and did not increase in size. The Dalles and Medford recorded 102 growing degree days, the highest number for the week.

**Field Crops:** Rain this past week has improved conditions some. Fall planting began Statewide, while harvesting of most crops was nearly completed. In Malheur County, some alfalfa hay that was down got wet. Fall field work and fertilizing was ongoing. In Sherman County, winter wheat seeding began with a little better soil moisture than last year. At this time there is no talk of "dusting in" the grain. In Wasco County, more rain is needed and the farmers are debating whether to wait for more rain or to "dust in" the wheat. In the Willamette Valley, field preparation for fall seeding of grains and grass seed was ongoing. Hops, mint and some red clover were still being harvested in Marion County. Grass fields for seed were being planted in Washington County. In Jackson County, hay was still being made. Fields were being worked for planting winter wheat and stubble was being worked back into the soil.

**Vegetables:** In the Willamette Valley, sweet corn harvest for processing continued; cooler weather had slowed maturity. There were still lots of good vegetables; squash, tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, lettuce, melons and green chilies available at roadside stands and farmers markets. The onion harvest was in full swing in Malheur County.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** The main nursery activity continued to be irrigation, although with last week's rains the demand has been reduced. Iris growers were harvesting, shipping and planting the tubers for next year's crop. Christmas tree growers had their annual convention last week in Portland. Greenhouses were still busy with fall vegetables and flower starts.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Bartlett pear harvest was mostly complete in the Willamette Valley and was ongoing in southern Oregon. Winter pear harvest was underway throughout the lower Hood River Valley, although disrupted by rain early in the week. Most late berries were finished in the Willamette Valley and on the southern coast. Early grape harvest began in Washington County, with many other counties soon to follow.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Cooler temperatures combined with precipitation provided a little relief to stressed pasture land and helped reduce fire danger. However, pasture land remains very dry across the State and maintaining good forage has been a big challenge for ranchers. Sustained moisture needed to get fall pastures started. Supplemental feed continued. In Jackson County, cattle were being moved off of higher ranges. Preconditioning of calves were reported in Baker County.

**Crop Progress Week Ending 9/14/03**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	5	—	3	1
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.3	6.7	—	—

**Soil Moisture Week Ending 9/14/03**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	32	47	21	—
Subsoil (%)	37	53	10	—

**Crop Condition Week Ending 9/14/03**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	15	26	41	16	2

**CLACKAMAS:** Field preparations for fall seeding of grains and grass seed are ongoing. Bartlett pear harvest finished. Evergreen blackberry picking is winding down. Nurseries are becoming more active in plant movement. Some irrigation continues. Abundant supplies of late summer and fall vegetables are available for the farmers markets and roadside stands. Sweet corn for processing is in the later stages of harvest. Dryland pastures have not yet shown much growth from the recent rains. Livestock remain in good condition but are still on supplemental feed.

**COOS\CURRY:** Coastal blueberry harvest was completed. The foliage-feeding cutworm attacking canary grass and field corn in Coos County was identified as an armyworm (*Pseudaletia unipuncta*). Many farms reported problems with this Noctuid family insect pest. South coastal Oregon recorded three days of precipitation. This was enough to substitute for at least one irrigation but not enough to replenish surface or well water supplies. Total precipitation at AgriMet weather stations ranged from 0.55" at Bandon to 0.76" at Brookings-Harbor.

**JACKSON:** Scattered rain relieved soil dryness briefly. Still hay being made with two cuttings of grass and three cuttings of alfalfa. Some fields being worked for winter wheat and to get the stubble worked back into the soil. Pear harvest is continuing as the different pear varieties become ready for harvest. These are mostly Bartletts, setter pears, and some Comice. Also some early varieties of apples being picked. Vineyards are getting ready for early varieties of grapes to be picked. Vegetable farmers still busy with harvest and getting their produce marketed. Lots of good vegetables at roadside stands and local farmers markets. Greenhouses still busy getting out fall plants. Lots of good fall flowers on sellers' shelves. Nurseries doing lots of fall stock sales and care of trees, plants and shrubs. Cattle ranchers busy with irrigation, feeding, and other animal care work. Some cattle being moved down from higher ranges. The hot, dry weather has made good forage harder to maintain. Most all livestock on adequate pasture looks good, but some have received supplemental feeding. We had good rain last weekend and some cooler days. It was a big help, but we will need more to get fall pasture started. Some irrigation pastures are running short of water, and the season's irrigation will soon end. A good week for

most all farm and ranch work.

**JOSEPHINE:** Warm daytime temperatures with nights in forties. Some wind but otherwise just great weather. Fires out. Grapes are ripening and the cool nights will be bringing the sugar up. No frost yet, although it has been close a couple of nights.

**MARION:** The rain this week was a welcome relief for many of our local farmers and the forest fire fighters. Harvest of most field crops is winding down, although there are still some hops, mint and maybe a little red clover seed to be harvested yet. The moisture will aid in getting some sprout on worked fields that will be going into tall fescue or perennial ryegrass. Except for sugarbeets for seed, tall fescue seed fields, and a little crimson clover, most fall seeding will not really get underway for a couple more weeks yet. Irrigation being applied to existing grass fields and ground to be fall planted. Sweet corn harvest continues.

**WASHINGTON:** Planting grass fields for seed crop and preparing fields for fall grain planting. Fourth cutting alfalfa near. Field corn earing up. Strawberries continue at markets, as well as blueberries and late raspberries. Prunes are ripe and Bartlett pears are mostly harvested. Apples abundant at markets. Squash, tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, lettuce, cantaloupe and water melons marketed. Green chilis and many other crops doing well at farmers markets. Sweet corn harvest for processors continues. Cooler weather slowed crop maturity. Cattle doing well but pastures are very dry. Grape harvest beginning.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Rain and snow showers with much cooler weather has curtailed field activities. Wheat planting underway. Barley harvest nearly finished. Preconditioning of calves underway.

**HARNEY:** Cool temperatures and about a half an inch of rain this week have reduced the fire danger and improved range conditions slightly. At least it settled the dust temporarily.

**HOOD RIVER:** Winter pear harvest was underway throughout the lower Hood River Valley, although it was disrupted by rain early in the week.

**MALHEUR:** Temperatures have cooled down somewhat. What irrigation water is left is being used more effectively. Rain last Tuesday helped all but the alfalfa hay that was down. Onion harvest is in full swing. Early sugarbeet should start topping this week. All harvest operations continue. Fall field work and fertilizing ongoing. Weather changed from 10 to 15 degrees warmer than normal to 10 to 15 degrees cooler than normal. Still no frost at night.

**SHERMAN:** Crop year moisture (September 1 to August 31) ended at 82% of normal at the Sherman Experiment Station in Moro, although many recorders are reporting normal or closer to normal. Earliest wheat seeding started September 8, but most will wait until the week of September 22 to begin. Somewhat better soil moisture than last year for seeding. Still counting damage from August 5 and 6 cloudburst. Watershed work went as far as the money would take it, but apparently more needs to be done. Worst part is after water leaves the cropland areas and blasts through a culvert, then down a steep, debris-filled grade. Town of Rufus was hard hit. Storm dropped 1.5 inches in 30 minutes in a concentrated area. Even 110% of conservation work could not have stopped that big of a volume. Seeding conditions are not the best, but producers are willing to plant in what moisture is there. Not much talk of "dusting in" the grain. Rangeland watering sources are increasingly stressed after five years of below normal rainfall and some have dried up. Sure could use a nice, gentle rain for about four days!

**WALLOWA:** Rain came the first of this week, but not much. Temperatures cooled off. Most of the crops are harvested. There are a few that the rain put a halt to from getting done.

**WASCO:** The week opened with a slight rain shower on Monday. Grain farmers need more rain. The dilemma now is to go ahead and dust in the winter wheat seed, or wait and hope for rain. Grain farmers trying to do "annual cropping" on winter wheat acreage have almost no moisture in their subsoil profile, while "biannual cropping practices" have varying amounts up to normal. Fertilizing and weeding operations continued all week. Nectarines, peaches, pears and apples continued to be picked in the northern end of the county. Alfalfa hay operations continued, while some late wheat hay bails were being hauled and stacked. The cattle were still doing fairly well on dry pastures. Winter feeding may have to start early to compensate for the short grass supply. Stockman are currently purchasing and filling their barns with hay for the winter months.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	42	74	59	0	66	2	0.88	0.27	6	1.43	0.30	127	7
Crescent City	45	69	58	-2	55	-8	0.12	-0.23	2	0.31	-0.31	47	4
Florence	40	75	59	-2	65	-7	1.34	0.83	5	1.82	0.87	192	7
North Bend	48	70	59	0	65	2	1.08	0.71	5	1.16	0.45	163	7
Tillamook	39	73	59	1	64	8	1.91	1.10	5	2.43	0.95	164	7
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	45	82	63	1	95	6	0.53	0.19	3	0.63	0.01	102	4
Eugene	44	81	62	-2	88	-10	0.65	0.29	3	0.71	0.00	100	4
Hillsboro	45	80	62	0	83	0	0.57	0.22	1	0.59	-0.06	91	2
McMinnville	43	82	61	-2	81	-9	0.63	0.28	3	0.73	-0.08	112	4
Portland	49	82	64	-1	101	-1	0.61	0.19	3	0.65	-0.14	82	4
Salem	46	82	63	-1	89	-1	0.54	0.19	3	0.54	-0.09	86	3
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	46	89	63	-4	93	-20	0.92	0.72	3	0.92	0.58	271	3
Medford	45	90	65	-3	102	-17	0.76	0.55	1	0.86	0.48	226	2
Roseburg	47	83	64	-1	101	-3	0.77	0.49	1	0.85	0.35	170	2
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	39	74	56	-3	46	-18	0.50	0.30	3	0.50	0.09	122	3
Heppner	41	78	59	-4	67	-19	0.46	0.26	3	0.46	0.12	135	3
Hermiston	41	82	63	-3	90	-13	0.72	0.58	1	0.72	0.44	257	1
John Day	37	82	56	-5	47	-29	0.54	0.33	3	0.54	0.12	129	3
Moro	38	75	57	-4	51	-26	0.25	0.11	3	0.25	-0.03	89	3
Pendleton	41	81	61	-4	78	-27	0.61	0.47	1	0.61	0.34	226	1
The Dalles	43	85	64	4	102	23	0.05	-0.09	1	0.05	-0.23	18	1
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	31	76	53	-5	24	-28	0.45	0.31	3	0.45	0.17	161	3
Burns	28	78	52	-5	17	-34	0.58	0.44	3	0.59	0.31	211	4
Klamath Falls	36	80	56	-5	42	-34	0.62	0.52	3	0.62	0.38	258	3
Lakeview	30	75	52	-8	22	-42	0.63	0.49	2	0.63	0.35	225	2
Redmond	30	85	55	-4	39	-23	0.43	0.32	3	0.56	0.31	224	5
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	28	75	52	-7	26	-38	0.33	0.12	3	10.71	-0.58	95	97
Joseph	36	79	51	-3	22	-17	0.36	0.08	3	21.13	-4.28	83	148
La Grande	30	81	54	-8	34	-48	0.29	0.08	3	12.87	-5.02	72	105
Union	31	79	54	-6	32	-34	0.81	0.53	6	16.96	2.62	118	128
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	36	79	58	-7	57	-47	0.14	0.00	3	8.48	-1.48	85	81
Rome	30	81	56	-6	46	-36	0.27	0.13	2	7.56	-1.00	88	79

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2003

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Oregon Crop Weather 24-03

Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Kevin Young, Math Statistician